

**GSA Newsarama**  
**Vol. 5, Issue 3**  
**November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

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As always, if you are no longer interested in receiving this update, simply reply to this email requesting that your name be removed from the list. Please include your current school (or previous school, if you graduated or are no longer in school).

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Feature

Hamilton High School Cookbook Sales – proceeds benefit RAY

Here is a great opportunity to help out another school working hard to create a safe learning environment for ALL students! Hamilton High School in Sussex, WI is sponsoring the sale of cookbooks that are a compilation of recipes contributed by some of the faculty and staff at the high school. Proceeds from the sale of these cookbooks will go to support the work of the RAY (Rainbow Alliance for Youth) Club, whose purpose is to create a safe and accepting school environment for all youth, regardless of sexual

orientation. It includes a section on "How To Build A Community" and several pages of quotes on diversity and acceptance.

To purchase a cookbook, please send a check for \$10 made payable to Hamilton High School to the address below. Be sure to include your name and mailing address.

Patricia Mitchell, Counselor  
Hamilton H.S. Guidance Department  
W220 N6151 Townline Road  
Sussex, WI 53089

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## Headlines

### 1. No Name-Calling Week 2007

No Name-Calling Week (January 22 – 26, 2007) is a week of educational activities aimed at stopping name-calling and verbal bullying in schools. The *Creative Expression Contest* is an opportunity for students to submit essays, poetry, music, original artwork, or other pieces that convey their experiences and feelings about name-calling, and their ideas for putting a stop to verbal bullying in their schools and communities.

This year's contest has been divided into three different judging categories. It is open to all individual students ages 5 to 15, and to schools or school districts that serve students in grades 5 through 8.

All entries must be postmarked on or received via fax or e-mail by 6pm Eastern time on Friday, December 1, 2006. Winners will be notified by telephone, mail, or e-mail in mid-January 2007.

For more details on the *Creative Expression Contest* or to find out more about No Name-Calling Week, visit [www.nonamecallingweek.org](http://www.nonamecallingweek.org).

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### 2. Wisconsin State Dept. of Health and Family Services Survey

The Department of Health and Family Services and the State Department of Public Instruction want to hear from youth about your experiences in learning about making healthy sexual choices. The survey focuses on three main areas:

- i. How adults influence your sexual health choices
- ii. What topics are important to influence your choices
- iii. What methods/strategies of delivering the message work best

This survey is being endorsed by GSA for Safe Schools and Diverse and Resilient and will help in the development of sexual health education in Wisconsin schools and training for teachers and parents. Please take 10 minutes to fill out the survey and email us with any suggestions or feedback you may have. The survey may be taken by following the link below:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=561732755585](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=561732755585)

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### 3. Documentary on discrimination for WYOU – stories wanted!

Lucie Ferrari is a local filmmaker who is putting together a documentary for WYOU on discrimination and the LGBT population. She is looking for people to tell their stories on camera and talk about the impact discrimination has on their lives and the lives of those around them.

This film is not being sponsored by GSA for Safe Schools. For more information on the documentary or on how to get involved, please contact us.

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### 4. Students of Color Organizing Conference 2007 – applications due!

GLSEN National will be hosting their fourth annual *Organizing Leaders: Student of Color Organizing Conference* from January 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in Atlanta, Georgia. The mission of this weekend is to provide networking and skill-building opportunities to empower young people of color to organize and become engaged in safer schools work. The event was made possible by a generous grant from the Time Warner Foundation and will gather Middle and High School students of color from all over the country during the Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend.

Applications are due no later than December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006. Details about the conference and information on how to apply may be found by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/news/record/2003.html>

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### 5. American School Board Journal Survey on Sex Education

The following article can be found on the American School Board Journal's website:

“The American School Board Journal Asks: What Should Schools Say About Sex? When it comes to sex education, ‘Just say... no?’

As Senior Editor Del Stover reports, a lot of people -- and indeed, a large, federally funded abstinence-only movement -- advocate just that. They claim the "comprehensive" sex ed courses taught in many public schools send a mixed message: "Don't have sex under any circumstances -- but if you do..." Proponents of the comprehensive approach say the message is not confusing and is more attuned to the real needs of students, some of whom are going to engage in sexual activity no matter how much adults preach abstinence.

What do you think schools should say? Please choose a response from those listed and e-mail your response -- with November 2006 Your Turn as the subject line -- to: [your-turn@asbj.com](mailto:your-turn@asbj.com). The results will be reported in January.

- A. *Teach abstinence only.*
- B. *Teach a comprehensive sex education curriculum that emphasizes abstinence before marriage but also gives students information about contraceptives.*
- C. *Don't teach sex education -- it's not the school's job.*
- D. *None of the above (please elaborate)."*

GSA for Safe Schools encourages you to respond to this survey. Are A, B and C the only options available? Does it contain language to be inclusive of LGBTQ students? Let them know what you think.

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## Related Readings

GSA Newsarama is a publication of GSA for Safe Schools (GSASS). Events, resources, and news items listed under "Related Readings" are not sponsored or written by GSASS, and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of GSASS.

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### 6. University Wire – Students Gaining a Voice in Fight for Gender Equality

UW-Eau Claire student Jessica Janiuk fights gender discrimination on the workplace, resulting in establishing transgender rights on campus. View the full article at:

<http://www.gwhatchet.com/media/paper332/sections/20061116UWireDcBureau.html?norewrite200611241734&sourcedomain=www.gwhatchet.com>

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### 7. 365Gay.com – Record Number of Gays Elected to Office

Despite the passing of 7 out of 8 constitutional amendments banning same-sex unions, there are some successes to celebrate from this year's elections. Sixty-seven candidates endorsed by the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund were elected in national, state and local races. The full article can be viewed at: <http://www.365gay.com/Newscon06/11/110806victory.htm>

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#### 8. 365Gay.com – Anti-Gay T-Shirt Battle Heads to Supreme Court

The legal battle surrounding Tyler Chase Harper, the young man who wore an anti-gay t-shirt to his high school on the National Day of Silence in 2004, is soon to be reviewed by the Supreme Court. The full article can be viewed at: <http://www.365gay.com/Newscon06/10/102806tshirt.htm>

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#### 9. 365Gay.com – Florida School District Sued for Refusing Gay Club

The ACLU has filed a lawsuit against the School Board of Okeechobee County, Florida for allegedly denying a Gay Straight Alliance the right to meet on school grounds. View the full article by following this link: <http://www.365gay.com/Newscon06/11/111506school.htm>

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#### 10. Stockton Record – Anti-Homophobia Play Could Bring Drama to Manteca School

Principal John Alba wants to bring the play "The Other Side of the Closet" into his Manteca School to teach the students about intolerance. East Union High School committee members are concerned that the play will create a backlash from community members. Read the full story at: [http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061115/A\\_NEWS/611150334/-1/A\\_NEWS01](http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061115/A_NEWS/611150334/-1/A_NEWS01)

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#### 11. Davis Enterprise – A Stand Against Hate

Harper Junior High School has reaffirmed its commitment to safe schools after the revelation that one of their students, Zachary Fischer, had been the subject of harassment because his father is gay. The school has drawn up an action plan to reduce or eliminate harassment at their school and at all Davis schools. View the full story at: <http://www.davisenterprise.com/articles/2006/11/19/news/044new0.txt>

